



## 2008 HURRICANE SEASON

The 2008 hurricane season, which officially begins Sunday, June 1, is fast approaching, and it is never too soon to start making preparations in the event a hurricane comes our way.

President Bush has declared the week, May 25 - 31, as Hurricane Preparedness Week, and to help you prepare, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has a website dedicated to hurricane preparedness, <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/>.

Experts at the NOAA Climate Prediction Center are projecting a 75 percent chance that the Atlantic Hurricane Season will be above normal this year with 3-5 major hurricanes expected. It is critical that you and your family plan ahead and know the steps you should take before, during, and after any natural disaster.

First responders might not be able to reach every single person within the first day following a disaster. You and your family need to be prepared to sustain yourselves for up to 72 hours after a hurricane. You should have an emergency plan of where you can go if you are told to evacuate. I recommend choosing several places such as a friend's home in another town, a motel, or a shelter.

I also encourage you to prepare a disaster supply kit, containing items such as water (at least 1 gallon daily per person), food (including non-perishable and canned items), a can opener, paper plates and utensils, blankets and pillows, clothing, first aid with medicines and prescription drugs, toiletries, a flashlight with batteries, battery operated radio, fully charged cell phone with an extra battery, cash, keys, toys, important documents in a waterproof container or waterproof plastic bag, and insurance documents.

Please remember that as we head into this hurricane season, my office and I stand ready to assist you. You can reach us toll free at 1-800-288-8721, and we'll be glad to do all we can to be helpful.



## ART CONTEST A SUCCESS

Mae Stimpson, a senior at St. Paul's Episcopal School, is the winner of this year's First Congressional District High School Art Competition: An Artistic Discovery. A student of art instructor Beth Compton, Mae was awarded first-place honors for her entry, "Broken Dreams." Her artwork, along with the other winning entries from across the country, will be displayed for one year in the United States Capitol.

On April 27, 2008, I was pleased to host a reception honoring all of this year's winners and their families at the Mobile Museum of Art. I commend the Mobile Museum of Art for their continued support of this competition.

Below is a complete list of the winners from this year's competition. Congratulations to all of them for entering such great work!

**Second Place** - Matthew Lee, Alabama School of Math and Science, Title of Work: "Candy Land"

**Third Place** - Lauren Oliver, Fairhope High School, Title of Work: "Crawfish Boil"

**Honorable Mentions** - Tim Kidd, Fairhope High School, Title of Work: "The Torn Truth"; David Willoughby, Daphne High School, Title of Work: "Clara Bow"; Meredith Magee, St. Paul's Episcopal School, Title of Work: Untitled; Sara Bowen, Alabama School of Math and Science, Title of Work: Untitled; and Jamie Stauter, Spanish Fort High School, Title of Work: "Sunshine Still-Life".



*I presented Mae Stimpson her "Best of Show" certificate at a reception at the Mobile Museum of Art. The reception honored Mae and all the winners of this year's First Congressional District Art Contest.*

# Honoring our Nation's Heroes

This month Americans will pause to reflect on the sacrifices of the members of our armed forces - both those currently wearing the uniform and those who have served in decades past - who lost their lives in the defense of freedom and liberty for our great nation.

The tradition of Memorial Day began 140 years ago. Following the Civil War, family members of the many soldiers slain in battle would visit those grave sites to lay flowers or other mementos.

Today, Memorial Day traditions take place in towns across the country.

I hope each of you will take a moment to remember some of south Alabama's own sons and daughters who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defending liberty around the globe.

May we never forget their lives and their sacrifices, and may we continue to honor our commitment to our veterans and their families in the years ahead.



*I was honored to join Staff Sergeant Steven Smith of Mobile on the National Mall last month. Sgt. Smith, along with soldiers from each of the other 49 states, took the oath of reenlistment at a special ceremony celebrating the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Army Reserve.*

## From the mailbox...

*Dear Congressman Bonner,*

*I am writing to thank you for your help with my disability claim that was approved in March. Words cannot begin to express the way I felt when I was told that I was approved for my disability. I told my family that if I could jump up and shout I would, but I couldn't, so I sat there and praised God and you all day. I wish that I could see you to thank you personally for what you have done for me. I was able to pay for my daughter's graduation package. I cannot thank you enough for your help and what it has done for my children and me, but mostly for them. May God bless you and keep you near him all of your days and again thank you so much for your help.*



*Sincerely,*

*A happy constituent*

*April, 2008*



*I recently had the pleasure of visiting with students from Robertsdale's Central Christian School while they were in Washington earlier this month.*